

Appl. No.: 09/537,364

Filed: March 29, 2000

Page 3**REMARKS**

This is in response to the Office Action dated March 27, 2004, in which the Examiner has objected to the specification as exceeding the 150 word maximum length as set forth in 37 CFR § 1.72(b). As such, Applicants have amended the Abstract so as to provide a brief abstract of the technical disclosure of the specification, and so as to not exceed 150 words. In addition, the Examiner has also required restriction between Group I, namely Claims 1-4, Group II, namely Claims 5-12, 20-31 and 32-42, and Group III, namely Claims 13-19. Thus, Applicant also hereby provisionally elects with traverse to prosecute the claims of Group II (Claims 5-12, 20-31 and 32-42) and expressly reserves the right to file divisional applications or take such other appropriate measures deemed necessary to protect the inventions in the remaining claims.

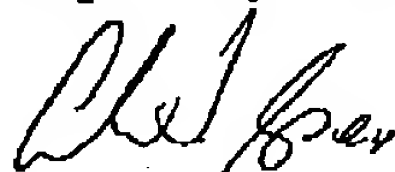
Appl. No.: 09/537,364  
Filed: March 29, 2000  
Page 4

**CONCLUSION**

Should the Examiner have further questions or comments with respect to examination of this case, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned so that further examination of this application can be expedited.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those, which may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,



Andrew T. Spence  
Registration No. 45,699

Customer No. 00826  
ALSTON & BIRD LLP  
Bank of America Plaza  
101 South Tryon Street, Suite 4000  
Charlotte, NC 28280-4000  
Tel Charlotte Office (704) 444-1000  
Fax Charlotte Office (704) 444-1111

**CERTIFICATION OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION**

I hereby certify that this paper is being facsimile transmitted to the US Patent and Trademark Office at Fax No. (703) 872-9706 on the date shown below.



Sarah B. Simmons

04-20-04

Date